

turned from England with her two daughters hove over our heads, but we have not yet met them. The Party were just leaving a Reception last week as we went in which I regretted as I should like to know them.

We found Dr. Prior very little aged since last year, still active & as fond of conquest as ever. Fanny & I always thought ourselves endured for Ella's sake, & that all his regard was for her: but he insisted upon a visit from us, which he made very pleasant during ten days. Soon after we left Halse in August, his only brother died very suddenly of paralysis. Dr. Prior had always said he should inherit his brother, & thought he was the next heir to Halse, Dr. P. did not regard him so, & always spoke of his nephew Goldney as his heir.

I fancy there had been some trouble years ago about money matters, & that they saw but little of each other.

Casa Funi, Viale Petrarca 96

Florence Italy Nov. 21/85

My dear Dr. Gray
Your immediate reply to my letter deserved a better return, but time flies rapidly when one is travelling & unanswered letters accumulate to an alarming degree - You know too that my eyes though much improved since I left home, do not allow me to write long at a time - So you must forgive my delay in reporting my interview with Mr. Barrothers at the British Museum, South Kensington. He was very agreeable & seemed to think he would like to buy the collection of Mosses, if I could tell him what to do with them & asked if he could buy any particular genera though he did not state how he could use one or two. He asked many questions about the C.A.

lection & took up a very well used copy
of *Nect. Mosses* from the table. I told him
Prof. Watson could tell him all about
Mr. James' collection far better than I
could, & he said he would write to him
about it if he found it desirable to make
enquiries. I was quite surprised to find
so good a collection of American Botanical
works in the library, as Mr. Barrelier wished
me to look them over to see if in Mr. James'
library there were any they had not.

I understood him to say that he bought
Muttall's library at a low price & in that
there were nearly all the American botanics
up to his death: some of Rafinesque's ~~herb.~~
wanted, but had two of his best books & the
rarest, the one with green lithographs, &
which is rare with us I think.

I was sorry not to go out to hear & see the
Hookers, but our stay in London was only
for five days, which were spent in fitting
ourselves out for the winter, as we gave up
Paris on account of the Quarantine between

France & Italy & went by the way of Ant-
werp & the Rhine to Brunswick & the
Brunnen pass to Modena.

We found Mr. Mrs. Goggaldi most
delightfully situated in the belline towers
which they took for six months, but they
did not think it would be very pleasant
in winter, as it was situated on a hill
rising beyond the Porto Romano, with
a bleak exposure & very little sun; so on the
1st they moved to apartments in the Casa
Funi looking onto the Porto Romano;
one room are all on one floor, only six
steps up from the street, which is delight-
ful for me, as Italian stairs are my
horror, & one flight, I call three.
One back room open onto a wide stone
terrace & into a garden, still brighter
green with shrubbery, & gay with mysan-
themums. Your friend the Miss Hor-
ner I hear has only two doves away
& their sister Mrs. Pertz who has just re-

& not the quest, it is all the worse for
the quest -

Miss Balgrove who writes to Fanny says
that Lady Norton's father is recovering
from his severe illness. I hope it was not
a mere temporary change, but a real
improvement & that she is relieved from
her anxiety concerning his health -

We have had a great deal of rain in
Florence since we came here the first
of October & sunny Italy seems only a
name. but I am looking forward to a
bright December - However I drive out
every day & am never tired of the streets
of the city & watching the domestic life
of the people in their dark dens of houses.
We have made several pleasant
trips into the country - the donkey fair
at Sompeschi was interesting & a drive
to Lucca the princely works of the Mar-
quis de Ginori well repaid the journey
of six or seven miles out to the hills -

The air of Florence is bracing & agrees
with me & when a bright clear day
comes I enjoy it greatly -

I hope you & Mrs. Gray will find
time this winter to send me a few
lines of Cambridge news -

Mr. & Mrs. Goggaldi desire to be affec-
tionately remembered to you both -
They are very happy, & I find my home
with them so agreeable that I have
little desire to return to Cambridge -
Life is very much easier here than
there, & it is a great rest to me
from the life of care I lead at home,
& I feel as if resting in the golden
light of the Indian summer with
nothing to do -

We have not met any of the Cambridge
travelers as yet, though I think both
Prof. Penhedge & Prof. Byedy expected
to be in Florence sometime this winter.
The Goretts are settled in Dresden

but-billy ends that the cold weather
may drive her mother to Italy.

We spent a week at Seina while
the Goyz, etc. were moving & found the
place very charming. Howells' account
of it in San Fati is excellent; did
you ever eat that detestable cake?
nothing short of an ostrich can digest
it.

Give a great deal of love to your
good wife & accept much for yourself
from your old friend

Isabella James.

Col. Beddome, whom I dare say you
know as a botanist, was with his
wife visiting at Hales when we were
there! though most of their lives had
been spent in India they were typical
English people; Mrs. Beddome was
a good croquet player, so Dr. Prior
pagan her want of conversation, & both
Beddome's pads, which ran counter
to his own - often to our amusement
& sometimes to our consternation, as when
the Colonel walked off to an archery meet-
ing at Taunton, which Dr. Prior despised,
spending the day there & leaving his
wife to say where he had gone - He hated
croquet & enjoyed tennis walking two or
three miles to play the latter game
with some pretty girls at Fitzhead, pleas-
ing Dr. Prior & the carriage waiting for
half an hour his nonappearance & at last
drive off without him for punctuality is one
of Dr. P.'s cardinal virtues. If the home comes